

Date of meeting:	25 November 2024
Title of Report:	Council's electoral cycle
Lead Strategic Director:	Tracey Lee (Chief Executive)
Author:	Liz Bryant (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer)
Contact Email:	Liz.bryant@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Electoral Cycle 2024
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To present to the Council the information contained in the Briefing Report at Appendix A and the results of the public consultation contained in the Consultation Report at Appendix B in order for it to make a determination as to whether to make a change to its electoral cycle arrangements.

Resolution:

- The Council determines whether to make a change in its electoral cycle arrangements by agreeing the following resolution:

This Council determines to move to whole Council elections every four years commencing on the first ordinary day of elections in May 2027 (a two thirds majority of those voting being required to make such a change), and to present the result of its resolution to the Boundary Commission.

Reason:

To inform the Local Government Boundary Commission for England of the outcome of the decision to enable them to move forward with their consultation on the city's boundary review and warding patterns.

Alternative options considered and rejected

At its meeting on 21 November 2022 the Council specifically asked for consideration of a move to whole council elections, therefore no other electoral cycle option has been considered.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Corporate Plan commits the Council to engaging with and listening to our residents, businesses and communities. The Council's values include a commitment to Plymouth being a place where people can have their say about what is important to them, and where they are empowered to make change happen. The recommendations of this report seek to deliver these commitments in respect of a key element of the Council's democratic arrangements.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

To continue with elections by thirds over a ten-year period (2021 – 2031) would cost an estimated £2.66 million, dependent on which year a UK General Election is held. Should the Council to move to whole council elections after 2027 it is estimated that over the same 10-year period this would cost £1.26 million and save £1.4 million over 10 years. Further detail is outlined in the attached briefing report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

It is difficult to calculate the carbon footprint of the current model of elections. However, should the Council move to all out elections, it would have a reduced carbon footprint as a result of: reduced printing of election materials e.g. ballot papers / postal votes and a reduction in facility hire e.g. heating etc.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council’s duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report							
B	Consultation summary							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Liz Bryant, Monitoring Officer

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 14/11/24